

CABINET

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

18 February 2013

The meeting commenced at 9.30 am in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

The Mayor, Stuart Drummond - In the Chair

Councillors: Cath Hill (Children's and Community Services Portfolio Holder)
John Lauderdale (Adults and Public Health Services Portfolio Holder)

Officers: Dave Stubbs, Chief Executive
Andrew Atkin, Assistant Chief Executive,
Chris Little, Chief Finance Officer
Peter Devlin, Chief Solicitor
Graham Frankland, Assistant Director, Resources
Sally Robinson, Assistant Director, Prevention, Safeguarding and
Specialist Services
Antony Steinberg, Economic Regeneration Manager
Julian Heward, Public Relations Officer
Denise Wimpenny, Principal Democratic Services Officer

174. Apologies for Absence

Paul Thompson (Finance and Corporate Services Portfolio Holder)

175. Declarations of interest by Members

None

176. Minutes of the meeting held on 4 February 2013

Received

177. Growing Places Fund Update (*Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods*)

Type of decision

For information

Purpose of report

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

The Economic Regeneration Manager provided background information to the Growing Places Fund. A prospectus, attached at Appendix 1, provided more information on the fund, details of how to apply as well as well as how decisions would be made on future projects in accordance with the Tees Valley Unlimited Joint Agreement, attached at Appendix 2.

In response to the Mayor's request for clarification as to whether any applications for funding had been made, the Economic Regeneration Manager reported that whilst he was not aware of any funding applications from Hartlepool developer's at the present time, the opportunity had been promoted to encourage interest in the scheme.

Decision

That the contents of the report be noted.

178. Quarter 3 – Strategic Financial Management Report (*Corporate Management Team*)

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

- i) to inform Cabinet of details of progress against the Council's overall revenue budget for 2012/13 and the in year savings targets set by Cabinet;
- ii) to inform Cabinet of details of the Early Intervention Grant Outturn;
- iii) to provide details of progress in achieving the capital receipts target; and
- iv) quarter 3 Capital Programme Monitoring.

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

The Chief Finance Officer provided details of progress against the Council's overall revenue budget, in year savings targets, Early Intervention Grant Outturn, progress in achieving the capital receipts target and quarter 3 Capital Programme Monitoring.

The Chief Finance Officer referred to the meeting of Cabinet on 4 February when it had been agreed to allocate part of the forecast underspend to fund specific commitments covering allocation of funding to reflect the impact of the provisional grant cut for 2013/14 of £29k, the higher final grant cut of £1k and a potential contribution of £0.200m to improve school attainment the impact of which was summarised in the report. An additional £20k had also been allocated by Council to fund a public inquiry. In relation to Cabinet's agreement that a contribution of up to £0.105m to partly fund 2013/14 Ward Member budgets, it was hoped that this amount could be identified in 2013/14 from anticipated savings in Member Allowances although this was dependent on the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel and a decision of Council.

In response to a Member's request for clarification, the Chief Finance Officer stated that schools would be asked to contribute towards the additional funding commitments required to improve education attainment.

Decision

- (i) That the contents of the report be noted.
- (ii) That the report be referred to Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee.

179. Renewal of the Longhill and Sandgate Business Improvement District (BID) *(Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods)*

Type of decision

For information

Purpose of report

To inform Cabinet of the outcome of the recent ballot for the renewal of the Longhill and Sandgate Business Improvement District (BID)

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

The report provided background information to the Longhill and Sandgate BID together with details of the outcome of the recent BID ballot. As a result of the positive outcome of the ballot, the continuation of the BID had been agreed for a further five years. The income and expenditure for the proposed five year of the BID was set out in the report.

Decision

That the positive outcome of the Longhill and Sandgate BID ballot be noted.

180. Hartlepool Participation Strategy (*Director of Child and Adult Services*)

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To present to Cabinet the Hartlepool Participation Strategy detailing the active involvement of children, young people and families in strategic decision-making across the town. Cabinet are asked to ratify the strategy in order for it to be publicised and promoted ensuring the involvement of children, young people and families becomes an intrinsic part of practice across all services and organisations.

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

The Assistant Director, Safeguarding and Specialist Services reported on the background to the Government's recognition of the need, importance and benefits of involving local people in decision making opportunities. Hartlepool had a strong history of involving children, young people and adults in local decision-making and shaping of services, details of which were included in the report. There was clear evidence that when local people were involved in development, services were more effective better targeted and increasingly cost effectively.

Hartlepool Participation Strategy, attached as an appendix to the report, had been developed to harness the good practice currently and to provide collective and co-ordinated vision of participation for all children, young people and families in Hartlepool. The report included the various types of participation as well as details of the vision for the participation of children, young people and families. It was noted that co-ordination of the Participation Strategy was through the Participation Manager. The Young inspectors continued to generated income through further expansion into training, consultation and participation work offering support to organisations which sought a 'young person's perspective' on their service delivery.

Members welcomed the Strategy and commented on the benefits of involving young people in decision making. A Member was particularly pleased to note the promotion and effectiveness of School Council's in primary school settings.

Decision

That the Hartlepool Participation Strategy be ratified.

The meeting concluded at 9.45 am.

P J DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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